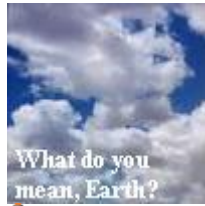


03:53 pm March 27th, 2007



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Mina de Malfois and The Thoughts on Yaoi - Part 3

The last part of my interview with Mina. Questions in bold, answer in normal font.

What's your favourite wank? And why?

Hmmmm, that's a difficult question! I suppose the Amy Player saga is my favourite, but I liked that best as written up in Turimel's book, so it might not count as a wank per se. I've also enjoyed the various Harmonian wanks (in HP fandom, for those not following it).

Are you doing any original writing next to Mina? Will we be able to read a commercially published novel by you?

Oh, goodness, no.

That is, yes to the first part--I sometimes, for my own amusement and that of a handful of friends, write original things. But I have no intention of ever attempting to have anything published commercially--writing is more of an escape for me, rather than any kind of potential career. So, sadly, I am not the next Cassie Cla(i)re. :)

:-)

I'd like to be able to read a novel by you. I'm sure a lot of people here would like to read it too...

Talking about BNFs, have you had any reactions to Mina from real BNFs?

Well, perhaps at some point I'll do a novel online. :)

I've mostly had amused reactions from people who are BNFs within their own fandom. Every now and then Mina will get a comment or email from someone whose username I recognize, which is a little bit thrilling. I think a lot of people who've been labelled 'BNF' have a certain amount of sympathy for Mina, or maybe they feel wry amusement at all the stereotypes of BNF behaviour.

I have, however, heard some hilarious rumours about less-positive reactions to Mina. At one point word got back to me that people were theorizing that "there'd be hell to pay" if anyone found out who was behind Mina; that made me laugh until tears ran down my cheeks, because it made it sound as if a posse of BNFs were going to show up on my doorstep to attack me!

So no cease-and-desist letters from Internet lawyers?

No, no C&Ds so far!

Though I should probably line up my own internet lawyer, just in case.

We're now well into Season 2 of Mina. Can we look forward to a third season?

Originally there was going to be just one set of stories...but then by the time I neared the end, I'd worked out all sorts of backstory and character interactions, and I knew "what things were supposed to happen next," and before I realized it I was plotting out season two. And now, already, I've started to accumulate ideas for stories that might just not fit into this set of twelve. So it's entirely possible that a "season three" will happen.

When will we finally be able to read "Mina de Malfois and the Artistic Temperament"?

"Artistic Temperament" is already completed (it has three parts, if anyone wondered), but because I vowed not to do any Mina postings during Lent, it won't be up until the week following Easter Sunday--I'll try to have it up on Tuesday, which I think will be the 10th of April. What I actually gave up for Lent--aside from a few things like junk food--was Mina-feedback. I wanted to give up something that took up a significant portion of time, and when I was weighing options I realized that checking Mina's lj for comments not only ate up time, but that doing without it would be an exercise in restraint and dedication: after all, I write the stories for enjoyment (my own and, I hope, other people's), not for praise. So I've been working away on Artistic Temperament, but haven't allowed myself to post it--even my betareaders won't be commenting until Easter Sunday. It sounds like such a *trivial* thing to give up, doesn't it? But it was surprisingly difficult. Mina-ing is a lot of fun, and she gets such encouraging comments; I swear I practically went through withdrawal!

And finally, by popular demand: what are your thoughts on yaoi?

My thoughts on yaoi: well, as always P.G. Wodehouse said it first and best. The introductory essay to one of his Jeeves books has a great comment about there being basically two ways to go about writing: you can either strive to be realistic, or you can go the other extreme and be light, amusing, and nothing at all like the real world. (Wodehouse put that a lot more pithily, but I can't find the quote right now!). I think yaoi is a lovely example of the second kind: stylized, and entertaining, but ultimately it only has to be true to its own conventions, not to "real world" standards. So I enjoy yaoi, precisely because it is exquisitely stylized. I think a lot of the people that dislike it are trying to bend it to fit real-world categories, which doesn't work, or else they're worrying about how it "portrays homosexuals," which is a bit like criticizing Victorian melodrama for how it "portrays landlords."

Many thanks to Mina for her time!